



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**'THEN AND NOW' PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT DOCUMENTS
PROGRESS, UNFOLDING OF HISTORY AT L.A. COUNTY PARKS**

Providing a visual record of Los Angeles County's rich history, a revealing photography exhibit on display in downtown L.A. shows more than a century of progress in L.A. County parks.

Presented by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, the "Then & Now" exhibit on the 2nd floor of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration (500 West Temple Street in Los Angeles) runs through the end of July, which is also national Park and Recreation Month.

The exhibit consists of 20 historic photographs — dating back as early as 1912 — taken at L.A. County park locations, paired with contemporary pictures photographed from the same vantage point.

"These photographs and the parks they depict are classic examples of Los Angeles County's rich cultural history," said Department of Parks and Recreation curator Ansley Davies, who created the exhibit with archival photographs from the Department's collection of historic and cultural resources, the L.A. County Chief Executive Office Photo Unit and well as loaned images from several archival institutions. "This is quite a remarkable collection, and we are excited for the chance to share it with the public."

Now being exhibited on a 2nd floor wall between elevator doors in the Hall of Administration, several of the historic images show work being performed on Depression-era construction projects made possible in the 1930s by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration. Others show scenes from 1940s, '50s and '60s in parks, golf courses and gardens in East L.A., Compton, Hollywood, Palos Verdes and Val Verde among other locations.

"Parks are not just open spaces and places for recreation — they are landmarks and resources for documenting how history has unfolded," said Department of Parks and Recreation Director Russ Guiney. "There is something particularly satisfying about the way these photos help us to better understand just how long these places have served such important roles. This exhibit allows all of us to bear witness to the pride and progress they exemplify in communities across L.A. County."